

Gerald Friesen, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Manitoba

Dr. Gerald Friesen was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He graduated with a B.A. Honors in history from the University of Saskatchewan in 1965. He received his Masters from the University of Toronto in 1966 and PHD in 1974. He began teaching at the University of Manitoba in the fall of 1970. In 1976 he was the recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. H.H. Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching. Friesen is the author of several books including: *A Guide to the Study of Manitoba local history* with Barry Potyondi published by the University of Manitoba Press for the Manitoba Historical Society in 1981. *The Canadian Prairies: A History* was published by the University of Toronto Press in 1984. In 1996 he wrote *River Road: Essays on Manitoba and Prairie History*. In 1999 Toronto: Penguin Books published *The West: Regional Ambitions, National Debates, Global Ages*. The following year, *Citizen and Nation: An Essay in History, Communication and Canada* was published by the University of Toronto Press.

Dr. Friesen has worked as a consultant on history projects sponsored by the National Museum of Canada, The National Film and contributed to the C.B.C. television series **Canada: A People's History**. He advised local high schools with the Time Links Project, a virtual website depicting early Winnipeg. He has been a board member of the Manitoba Labor Education Committee. Dr. Friesen remains an active member of the history department of the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Friesen, Distinguished Professor in Canadian history, is an expert on Western Canada, Manitoba, labour history and communication history. Friesen has written extensively on Western Canadian history from a social history perspective. Working through this lens, Friesen has studied within the area of Native history, notably as the general editor of the award-winning fifteen volume series *Manitoba Studies in Native History*.

Most recently, Friesen has published, together with Royden Loewen, *Immigrants in Prairie Cities: Ethnic Diversity in Twentieth Century Canada* (University of Toronto Press), which addresses the issue of immigrant integration in a polyethnic society. Friesen also recently edited a collection with Esyllt Jones. This collection, *Prairie Metropolis: New Essays on Winnipeg Social History*, was nominated for the Margaret McWilliams Award for Local History (Manitoba Historical Society) and won the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award (2009).

Throughout his career, Friesen has been dedicated to furthering historical education through work with a number of community organizations. Friesen has been involved in this field in a variety of capacities, including president of the Canadian Historical Association (2003 to 2005), executive member of the Manitoba Historical Society and the Société Historique de Saint-Boniface, treasurer of the Manitoba Federation of Labour's Education Centre, board member with Canada's Visual History / L'Histoire Visuelle du Canada (National Museum of Canada and the National Film Board -- eighty slide sets), advisor for Timelinks (a Manitoba educational website), committee member for the Canadian history curriculum (Grade Eleven, Manitoba), and advisor to the CBC's *Canada: A People's History* film project.

In recognition of Friesen's advancement of knowledge and encouragement of education, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2002. On October 4, Friesen will be participating in the Centre for Human Rights Research Initiative's Critical Conversation series. Friesen will be speaking about Residential Schools and Saskatchewan Cree Collective Memory as part of a seminar on Residential Schools: Memories and Histories.